

Application No. 10/043,277
Reply dated May 4, 2004
Response to Office Action dated February 12, 2004

ADDITIONAL CLAIMS FEE CHART

For	No. After Amendment	Highest No. Prev Filed	No. Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	- 24	- 25	= 0	x \$ 9/\$18	= \$
Indep. Claims	- 19	- 3	= 16	x \$43/86	= <u>\$1,376.00</u>
				TOTAL:	\$1,376.00

A check in the amount of \$1,376.00 in payment of the additional claims fee is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional required fees, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 05-1323 (CAM # 095309.50754US). **A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.**

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 26~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening;

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening; and

~~further comprising~~ an outer vehicle plating unit, wherein the wall including the opening, on which the fitting is attached, is covered by the outer vehicle plating unit, and wherein the fitting projects into a space between the plating unit and the wall with the fitting.

28-30. (cancelled)

31. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 30, A vehicle frame comprising:~~

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is fastened to the wall including the opening via the support arrangement, and wherein the support arrangement is fastened to the wall including the opening with an adhesive bond.

32. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 26, A vehicle frame comprising:~~

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is held in place by a ring flange that is slidable over an end of the fitting that protrudes through the opening, and wherein the ring flange is supported at the edge of the opening against a side surface of the wall including the opening, which side surface of the wall including the opening is not on the same side of the wall including the opening as is the support arrangement of the fitting.

33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 26~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is a steering console.

35. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 26~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is a housing for electrical components.

36. (previously presented) The vehicle frame according to claim 35, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the wall on which the fitting is attached.

37. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 26~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.

38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 38~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

lightweight panels having an opening; and

a vehicle device insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the vehicle device including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the vehicle device in the opening, wherein the vehicle device is a steering console.

40. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 38~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

lightweight panels having an opening; and

a vehicle device insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the vehicle device including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the vehicle device in the opening, wherein the vehicle device is a housing for electrical components.

41. (currently amended) The vehicle frame according to claim 40, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the ~~wall~~ lightweight panel on which the ~~fitting~~ vehicle device is attached.

42. (currently amended) ~~The vehicle frame according to claim 38~~ A vehicle frame comprising:

lightweight panels having an opening; and

a vehicle device insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the vehicle device including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the vehicle device in the opening, wherein the fitting is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.

43. (cancelled).

44. (currently amended) ~~The passenger vehicle assembly according to claim 43, A passenger vehicle assembly comprising:~~

a vehicle frame having

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the ~~vehicle device~~ fitting is a steering console.

45. (currently amended) ~~The passenger vehicle assembly according to claim 43 A passenger vehicle assembly comprising:~~

a vehicle frame having

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the vehicle device fitting is a housing for electrical components.

46. (previously presented) The passenger vehicle assembly according to claim 45, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the wall on which the fitting is attached.

47. (currently amended) ~~The passenger vehicle assembly according to claim 43 A~~ passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

a vehicle frame having

a support box including

a base area,

a front wall,

an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and

side walls limiting the front leg room at sides, wherein one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls includes an opening; and

a fitting insertable into the opening so as to cover the opening completely, the fitting including

a support arrangement that is engageable with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the vehicle device fitting is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.

48-50. (cancelled)

51. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 50, A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:~~

providing the passenger vehicle assembly with a vehicle frame that includes a support box having a base area, a front wall, an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and side walls limiting the front leg room at sides;

providing an opening in one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls;

inserting a fitting into the opening so as to cover the opening completely;

engaging a support arrangement of the fitting with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening;

fastening the fitting to the wall including the opening via the support arrangement; and

further comprising fastening the support arrangement to the wall including the opening with an adhesive bond.

52. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 48 further comprising: A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:~~

providing the passenger vehicle assembly with a vehicle frame that includes a support box having a base area, a front wall, an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and side walls limiting the front leg room at sides;

providing an opening in one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls;

inserting a fitting into the opening so as to cover the opening completely;

engaging a support arrangement of the fitting with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening;

sliding a ring flange over an end of the fitting that protrudes through the opening;

supporting the ring flange at the edge of the opening against a side surface of the wall including the opening, which side surface of the wall including the opening is not on the same side of the wall including the opening as is the support arrangement of the fitting; and

holding the fitting in place with the ring flange.

53. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 48~~ A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

providing the passenger vehicle assembly with a vehicle frame that includes a support box having a base area, a front wall, an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and side walls limiting the front leg room at sides;

providing an opening in one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls;

inserting a fitting into the opening so as to cover the opening completely; and

engaging a support arrangement of the fitting with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is a steering console.

54. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 48~~ A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

providing the passenger vehicle assembly with a vehicle frame that includes a support box having a base area, a front wall, an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and side walls limiting the front leg room at sides;

providing an opening in one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls;

inserting a fitting into the opening so as to cover the opening completely; and

engaging a support arrangement of the fitting with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, wherein the fitting is a housing for electrical components.

55. (previously presented) The method according to claim 54, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the wall on which the fitting is attached.

56. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 48~~ A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

providing the passenger vehicle assembly with a vehicle frame that includes a support box having a base area, a front wall, an upper wall limiting a front leg room above, and side walls limiting the front leg room at sides;

providing an opening in one of the front wall, upper wall, and side walls;

inserting a fitting into the opening so as to cover the opening completely; and

engaging a support arrangement of the fitting with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the fitting in the opening, further comprising fastening the fitting to the wall including the opening via the support arrangement, wherein the fitting is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.

57. (cancelled)

58. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 57,~~ A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:

providing a frame of the passenger vehicle assembly with lightweight panels;

providing an opening in one of the lightweight panels;

inserting a vehicle device into the opening so as to cover the opening completely; and

engaging a support arrangement of the vehicle device with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the vehicle device in the opening, wherein the vehicle device is a steering console.

59. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 57, A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:~~

providing a frame of the passenger vehicle assembly with lightweight panels;

providing an opening in one of the lightweight panels;

inserting a vehicle device into the opening so as to cover the opening completely; and

engaging a support arrangement of the vehicle device with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the vehicle device in the opening, wherein the vehicle device is a housing for electrical components.

60. (currently amended) The method according to claim 59, wherein the components are connected via electrical lines which are held in hollow channels in the ~~wall~~ lightweight panel on which the ~~fitting~~ vehicle device is attached.

61. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 57, A method for making a passenger vehicle assembly comprising:~~

providing a frame of the passenger vehicle assembly with lightweight panels;

providing an opening in one of the lightweight panels;

inserting a vehicle device into the opening so as to cover the opening completely; and

engaging a support arrangement of the vehicle device with an edge of the opening to limit the insertion of the vehicle device in the opening, wherein the vehicle device is an insertion module for a windshield wiper assembly.